

THE
KINGS LETTER
TO THE
LORDS:

Sent by the
PRINCE.

On the behalfe of the Earle of
STRAFFORDS.

AND
The LORDS Answer to His
MAJESTIE.

*With the Earle of Straffords Letter to
His Majestie, 4. May.*

Together
*With his Speech upon the Scaffold, and
the Manner of his Execution.*

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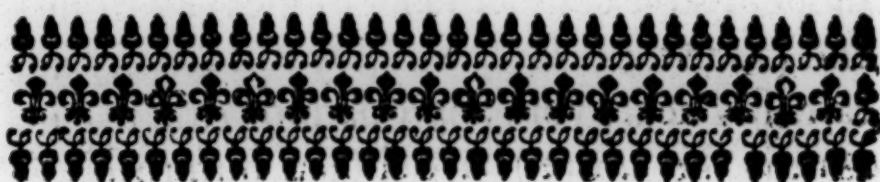
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*The Kings Letter to the Lords, sent
by the Prince on the behalfe of the
Earle of Strafford.*

My Lords,



Did yesterday satisfie the justice of the Kingdome by passing the Bill of Attaynder upon the Earle of Strafford, But mercie being as inherent and inseparable to a King (as justice) I desire at this time in some measure, to shew that likewise, by suffering that misfortunate Man to fulfill the naturall course of his life in a close imprisonment, yet so that if ever he make the least offer to escape, or offer directly or indirectly to meddle in any sort of publike businesse, especially with me, eyther by Message or Letter, it shall cost him his life without further processe. This (if it may be done without the discontentment of my people) will be an

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unspeakeable contentment to me: To which end (as in the first place) I (by this Letter) doe earnestly desire your approbation, And to (indeare it the more) have cholen him to carrie it, that of all the house is most deare to me. So I desire by a Conference you will endeavour to give the house of Commons contentment: Likewise assuring you that the exercising of mercie is not more pleasing to mee than to see both houses of Parliament consent for my sake, that I should moderate the severitie of the Law in so important a Case.

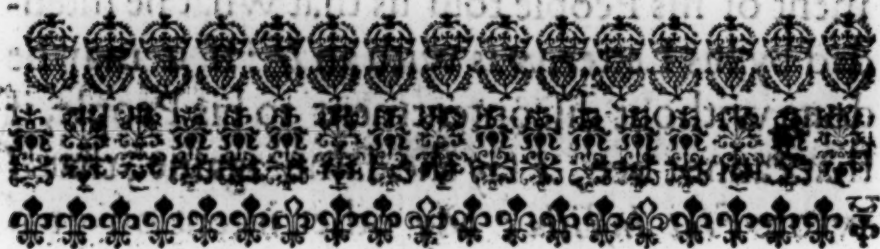
I will not say that your complying with me (in this my intended mercie) shall make mee more willing, but (certainely) it will make me more cheerfull in granting your just grievances, but if no lesse than his life can satisfy my people, I must say *Fiat justitia*. Thus againe earnestly recommending the Consideration of my intentions to you, I rest

If he must die, it were Charitie to reprove
him till Saturday. Whitehall 11. of May 1641.

Your unalterable affe-

ctionate friend.

Charles Rex.



The Answer of the Letter
the 11. of May.



His Letter (all written with the Kings own hand) we the Peeres, this day received in Parliament, delivered by the hand of the Prince, it was twice read in the House, and after serious and sad consideration they resolved presently to send twelve of the Peeres, messengers to the King, humbly to signifie that neither of the two intentions expressed in the Letter could with dutie by us, or without danger to himselfe, his dearest Consort the Queene, and all the young Princes their Children possibly be advised with: This being accomplished, and more expression offered, his Majestie suffered no more words to come from us, but out of the fulnesse of his heart to the observance of Iustice, and for the content-

ment of his People, told us that what he intended by his Letter, was with an *If* : If it may be done without discontentment to his People, if that cannot bee, I say the same againe, that I wrote *Fiat Iustitia* : My other intention proceeding out of Charitie for a few dayes respite, was upon a certaine Information, that his estate was so distracted, that it necessarily required some few dayes for settlement thereof.

Wherunto the Lords answered, their purpose was to be suitors to his Majestie for favour to be shewen to his innocent Children; and if himselfe had made any Provision for them, that it might hold.

This was liking to his Majestie, who thereupon parted from the Lords. At his Majesties parting we offered up into his hands the Letter it selfe which he had sent, but he pleased to say, My Lords, what I have written to you, I shalbe content, shalbe registred by you in your House, in it you see my minde : I hope you will use it to my Honour.

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This, upon returne of the Lords from the King,
was presently reported by the Lord Privie
Seale to the House, And ordered, that these
Lines should goe out with the Kings Letter: if
any Coppie of the Letter were desired.



The first of the last of the
 was reported by the Lord Prior
 to the House, and ordered that
 the same should be taken into
 consideration of the House were held.

